

Introduced by Senators Steinberg and Perata

April 23, 2007

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 42—Relative to Autism Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 42, as introduced, Steinberg. Autism Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim April 2007 as Autism Awareness Month, and would acknowledge the contributions made in the area of early autism and autism spectrum disorders intervention treatment.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) now impacts
2 one out of every 150 children in the United States and is the fastest
3 growing serious developmental disability; and
4 WHEREAS, California has been the established leader in
5 providing services and supports for the early identification,
6 assessment, intervention, education, and treatment of individuals
7 with ASDs that began with the passage of landmark state legislation
8 such as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act
9 of 1969 and Assembly Bill Number 3854 (1974, Burton), relating
10 to autism and public education; and
11 WHEREAS, Parents and family members have made invaluable
12 contributions through their commitment, caring, and advocacy to
13 important advances in research, education, and treatment for
14 individuals with ASDs; and
15 WHEREAS, In 2005, Senator Perata authored Senate Concurrent
16 Resolution Number 51 (Chapter 124, Stats. 2005) that established,
17 with the support of Assembly Speaker Nunez and bipartisan

1 backing, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism,
2 which is comprised of, among others, Senator Darrell Steinberg
3 as chair, and Dr. Barbara Firestone, President and CEO of the Help
4 Group, as vice-chair, to identify gaps in programs and services
5 related to the education and treatment of children, adolescents,
6 transitional youth, and adults with ASDs, and to provide
7 recommendations that will contribute to the development of a
8 comprehensive and integrated continuum of programs, services,
9 and funding; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2006, Assembly Member Pavley authored
11 Assembly Bill 2513 (Chapter 783, Stats. 2006), which was
12 sponsored and supported by the California School Boards
13 Association, California Association of Suburban School Districts,
14 and the Association of California School Administrators, directed
15 the Superintendent of Public Education to establish the
16 Superintendent's Autism Advisory Committee (SAAC), and
17 required this multidisciplinary advisory group to develop
18 recommendations by which public and nonpublic schools, including
19 charter schools, can better serve pupils with autism and their
20 parents; and

21 WHEREAS, The Budget Act of 2006 provided additional
22 funding that expanded the ASDs initiative to include additional
23 professional training and development, state and regional ASDs
24 resource centers, expansion of ASDs support staff, and the
25 development, publication, and dissemination of "ASD: Best
26 Practice Guidelines for Treatment and Interventions"; and

27 WHEREAS, The State Department of Developmental Services,
28 the regional centers for individuals with developmental disabilities,
29 the State Department of Education and local school districts, the
30 State Department of Health Care Services, and the Centers for
31 Autism Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology
32 (CADDRE) Network are committed to improving the quality of
33 life for individuals with ASDs; and

34 WHEREAS, The University of California, Davis M.I.N.D.
35 Institute, launched in 1998 with inspiration from the parent
36 community and funding from the California State Legislature, is
37 now recognized internationally as a premier research institution
38 that is advancing our knowledge of ASDs and other
39 neurodevelopmental disorders; and

1 WHEREAS, First 5 California has made the issue of autism for
2 children who are five years of age and younger an important
3 priority, including the First 5 California Special Needs Project,
4 which indicates that 19 percent of children suffer from
5 developmental delays or disabilities that are frequently undetected
6 by routine examinations during the first five years of life; and

7 WHEREAS, The Help Group, the Autism Society of America,
8 Autism Speaks, Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT),
9 Protection and Advocacy, Inc., and other nonprofit organizations
10 contribute to the well-being of individuals with autism and their
11 families; and

12 WHEREAS, Current scientific research has demonstrated that
13 the early identification and intervention of children with ASDs
14 can result in significant positive outcomes in many children with
15 ASDs; and

16 WHEREAS, The University of California, Los Angeles is
17 recognized as a Center of Excellence in autism by the National
18 Institutes of Health and has made significant contributions to the
19 field; and

20 WHEREAS, Public information and awareness efforts are of
21 paramount importance in accelerating early identification efforts
22 and the proliferation of early intervention programs and services;
23 now, therefore, be it

24 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
25 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature affirms its commitment
26 to the important issues described in this resolution by declaring
27 April 2007 as Autism Awareness Month in California and
28 emphasizes that each and every individual with an ASD is a valued
29 and important member of our society; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and commends the
31 parents and relatives of individuals with ASDs for their sacrifice
32 and dedication in providing for the special needs of individuals
33 with ASDs and for absorbing significant financial costs for
34 specialized education and support services; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports the goal of increasing
36 federal funding for basic and applied translational research to learn
37 the root causes of autism and identify the best methods of early
38 intervention and treatment, expand programs for individuals with
39 autism across their lifespan, and promote understanding of the
40 special needs of people with autism; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Legislature continues to support the important
2 work of the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, the
3 Superintendent's Autism Advisory Committee, The Help Group,
4 the University of California, Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, the First 5
5 California State and County Commission, Families for Early
6 Autism Treatment (FEAT), Protection and Advocacy, Inc., the
7 Autism Society of America, Autism Speaks, the State Department
8 of Health Care Services, CADDRE, the California State Council
9 on Developmental Disabilities, and others; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature stresses the need to identify
11 children with ASDs and to begin early intervention services
12 immediately after a child has been diagnosed with autism, and that
13 those services, interventions, and supports for individuals with
14 ASDs, and their families, must be provided in an integrated,
15 seamless, comprehensive, individually focused, and culturally
16 competent manner that are delivered across the child's lifespan;
17 and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
19 this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, the State Department of Developmental Services, the State
21 Department of Health Care Services, the Area Boards for
22 Developmental Disabilities, the State Department of Education,
23 the Association of Regional Center Agencies, the University of
24 California, Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, University of California, Los
25 Angeles, the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism,
26 The Superintendent's Autism Advisory Committee, the California
27 School Boards Association, the California Association of Suburban
28 School Districts, the Association of California School
29 Administrators, The Help Group, the local chapters of the Autism
30 Society of America, Autism Speaks, the United States Department
31 of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health,
32 the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State
33 Council on Developmental Disabilities, First 5 California State
34 and County Commission, Families for Early Autism Treatment
35 (FEAT), Protection and Advocacy, Inc., and to each Senator and
36 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
37 States.

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